



# News

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Thirty-One Children Waiting for Families**

Thirty-one children in foster care are hoping their portraits will capture the eye of families who will adopt them.

The children who are in Utah foster homes include three sibling groups of two, three and six children and 20 individuals. Professional photographers worked to capture each child's unique personality on film.

Children and their photographers will attend the opening of the Adoption Heart Gallery on Nov. 1 at the Wells Fargo Bank lobby, 299 S. Main St. from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The photos will be displayed for one month in Salt Lake City and then travel around the state.

Approximately 300 children are adopted from Utah foster homes yearly. The children who pose for portraits are mostly older youth and some are part of sibling groups who want to remain together, according to Division of Child and Family Services adoption specialist Marty Shannon.

Heart Gallery empowers youth to participate in the venture of finding a family as they reach out and portray their personalities, Shannon said. "Some have developed the confidence through working with a photographer and being at public events to become public speakers for all youth who need adoptive families."

First Lady Mary Kaye Huntsman will speak about the need for adoption. A little girl who was adopted through last year's Heart Gallery will attend with her new family and receive the portrait that led to her adoption.